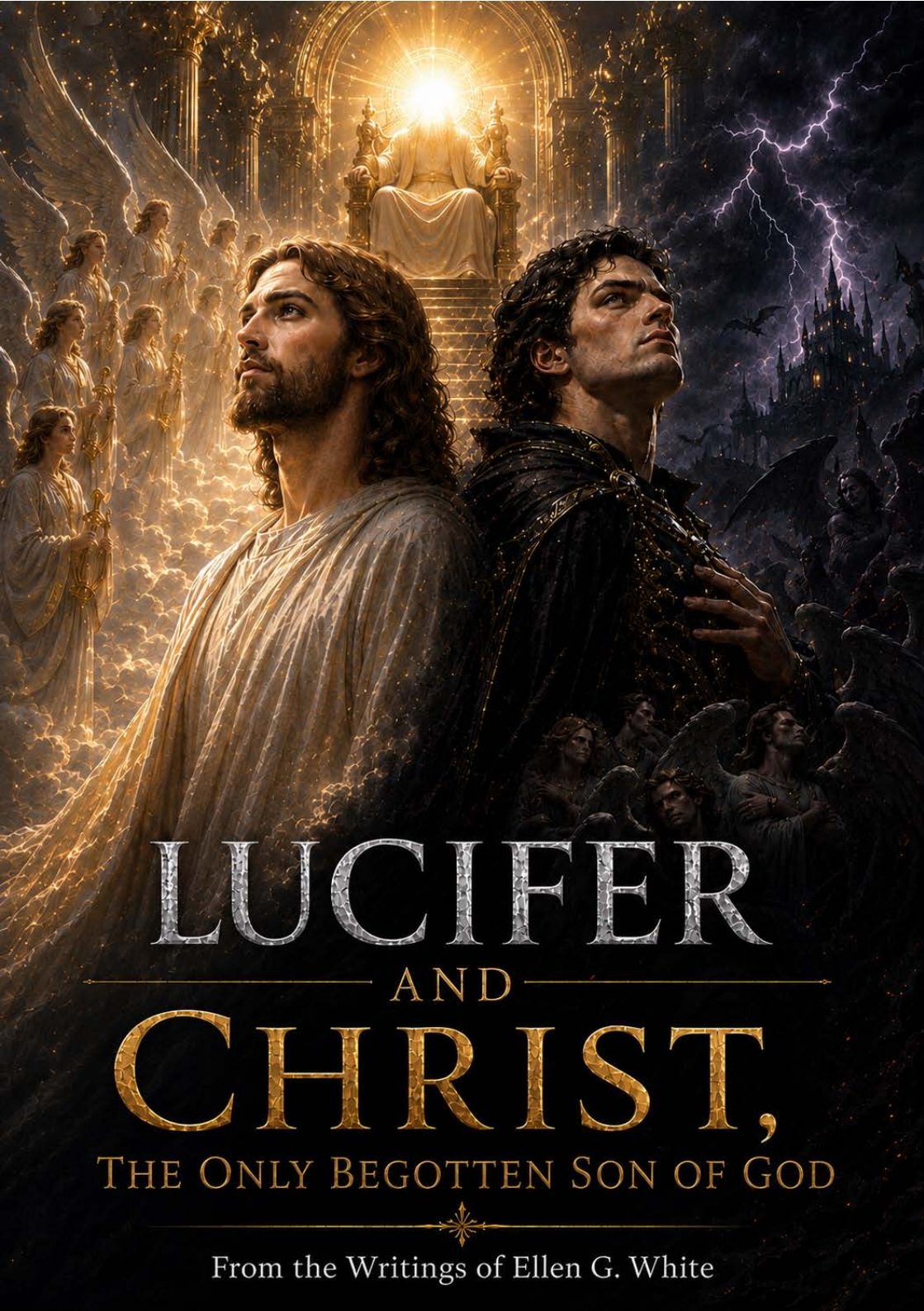




LUCIFER
— AND —
CHRIST,
THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD

From the Writings of Ellen G. White

The Beginning of the Great Controversy: Lucifer and Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God

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*How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how
art thou cut down to the ground,
which didst weaken the nations!*

*For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:*

*I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation,
in the sides of the north:*

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;

I will be like the most High. (Isaiah 14:12-14)

The Lord Himself gave to Satan his glory and wisdom, and made him the covering cherub, good, noble, and exceeding lovely. **Among the inhabitants of heaven, Satan, next to Christ, was at one time most honored of God, and highest in power and glory.** (Signs of the Times July 23, 1902, paragraph 2)

But, little by little, **he began to seek his own honor**, and to employ his powers **to attract attention** and **win praise to himself**. He also gradually led the angels over whom he ruled to do him service, instead of devoting all their powers to the service of their Creator. **This course perverted his own imagination**, and perverted those who yielded implicitly to his authority. (Spirit of Prophecy Volume 4, page 317.1)

Before the fall of Satan, the Father consulted His Son in regard to the formation of man. They purposed to make this world, and create beasts and living things upon it, and to make man in

the image of God, to reign as a ruling monarch over every living thing which God should create. **When Satan learned the purpose of God, he was envious at Christ, and jealous because the Father had not consulted him in regard to the creation of man. Satan was of the highest order of angels; but Christ was above all.** (Spiritual Gifts Volume 3, page 36.1)

Satan was once an honored angel in heaven, next to Christ. His countenance, like those of the other angels, was mild and expressive of happiness. His forehead was high and broad, showing great intelligence. His form was perfect; his bearing noble and majestic. **But when God said to His Son, "Let us make man in our image," Satan was jealous of Jesus. He wished to be consulted concerning the formation of man, and because he was not, he was filled with envy, jealousy, and hatred. He desired to receive the highest honors in heaven next to God.** (Early Writings 145.1)

It is only by a clear discernment of spiritual things that the original apostasy can be understood. The controversy in heaven began with selfish strife for position, a desire on the part of Lucifer to be equal with God. **The disaffection of Satan in entertaining the thought that he should stand as head of the heavenly order at first seemed a small thing, but by dwelling upon this thought, it was strengthened.** Step by step he miscalculated the position that had been assigned him by God, to be maintained only in God, **until he finally came to look with enmity upon everything coming from Jesus Christ.** Satan rebelled against the laws governing the heavenly intelligences; and by representing these in a deceptive light, by his unbelief and complaints, he drew others with him into rebellion. (Review and Herald May 30, 1899, paragraph 3)

The creation of our world was brought into the councils of heaven. **There the covering cherub prepared his request that he should be made prince to govern the world then in prospect. This was not accorded him. Jesus Christ was to rule the earthly kingdom; under God He engaged to take the world with all its probabilities.** The law of heaven should be the standard law for this new world, for human intelligences. Lucifer was jealous of Christ and this jealousy worked into rebellion and he carried with him a large number of the holy angels. Jesus, the Son of God, was not deceived by Lucifer's sophistry. He stood true to principle and resisted every line of reasoning of Lucifer and all the angels who had taken sides with him, thus evidencing that as He stood, every angel might have stood. (Manuscript 43b 1891.3)

Satan ... had been ambitious for the more exalted honors which God had bestowed upon His Son. He became envious of Christ, and represented to the angels who honored him as covering cherub that he had not the honor conferred upon him which his position demanded. (Review and Herald February 24, 1874, paragraph 2)

Little by little Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation. The Scripture says, "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness." Ezekiel 28:17. "Thou hast said in thine heart, ...I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.... I will be like the Most High." Isaiah 14:13, 14. **Though all his glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as pertaining to himself.** Not content with his position, though honored above the heavenly host, he ventured to covet homage

due alone to the Creator. Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all created beings, it was his endeavor to secure their service and loyalty to himself. **And coveting the glory with which the infinite Father had invested His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power that was the prerogative of Christ alone.** (Patriarchs and Prophets 35.2)

By sly insinuations, by which **he made it appear that Christ had assumed the place that belonged to himself**, Lucifer sowed the seeds of doubt in the minds of many of the angels; and when he had won their support, he carried the matter to God, **declaring that it was the sentiment of many of the heavenly beings that he should have the preference to Christ.** (Review and Herald February 4, 1909, paragraph 1)

Now the perfect harmony of heaven was broken. Lucifer's disposition to serve himself instead of his Creator aroused a feeling of apprehension when observed by those who considered that the glory of God should be supreme. In heavenly council the angels pleaded with Lucifer. **The Son of God presented before him the greatness, the goodness, and the justice of the Creator, and the sacred, unchanging nature of His law. God Himself had established the order of heaven; and in departing from it, Lucifer would dishonor his Maker and bring ruin upon himself.** But the warning, given in infinite love and mercy, only aroused a spirit of resistance. **Lucifer allowed his jealousy of Christ to prevail, and became the more determined.** (Patriarchs and Prophets 35.3)

To dispute the supremacy of the Son of God, thus impeaching the wisdom and love of the Creator, had become the purpose

of this prince of angels. To this object he was about to bend the energies of that master mind, which, next to Christ's, was first among the hosts of God. **But He who would have the will of all His creatures free, left none unguarded to the bewildering sophistry by which rebellion would seek to justify itself.** Before the great contest should open, all were to have a clear presentation of His will, whose wisdom and goodness were the spring of all their joy. (Patriarchs and Prophets 36.1)

The King of the universe summoned the heavenly hosts before Him, **that in their presence He might set forth the true position of His Son and show the relation He sustained to all created beings. The Son of God shared the Father's throne, and the glory of the eternal, self-existent One encircled both.** About the throne gathered the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng—"ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands" (Revelation 5:11.), the most exalted angels, as ministers and subjects, rejoicing in the light that fell upon them from the presence of the Deity. Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven the King declared **that none but Christ, the Only Begotten of God, could fully enter into His purposes,** and to Him it was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will. **The Son of God had wrought the Father's will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; and to Him, as well as to God, their homage and allegiance were due.** Christ was still to exercise divine power, in the creation of the earth and its inhabitants. **But in all this He would not seek power or exaltation for Himself contrary to God's plan, but would exalt the Father's glory and execute His purposes of beneficence and love.** (Patriarchs and Prophets 36.2)

The angels joyfully acknowledged the supremacy of Christ, and prostrating themselves before Him, poured out their love and adoration. Lucifer bowed with them, but in his heart there was a strange, fierce conflict. Truth, justice, and loyalty were struggling against envy and jealousy. The influence of the holy angels seemed for a time to carry him with them. As songs of praise ascended in melodious strains, swelled by thousands of glad voices, **the spirit of evil seemed vanquished; unutterable love thrilled his entire being; his soul went out, in harmony with the sinless worshippers, in love to the Father and the Son. But again he was filled with pride in his own glory. His desire for supremacy returned, and envy of Christ was once more indulged. The high honors conferred upon Lucifer were not appreciated as God's special gift, and therefore, called forth no gratitude to his Creator.** He gloried in his brightness and exaltation and aspired to be equal with God. He was beloved and revered by the heavenly host, angels delighted to execute his commands, and he was clothed with wisdom and glory above them all. **Yet the Son of God was exalted above him, as one in power and authority with the Father.** He shared the Father's counsels, while Lucifer did not thus enter into the purposes of God. **"Why," questioned this mighty angel, "should Christ have the supremacy? Why is He honored above Lucifer?"** (Patriarchs and Prophets 36.3)

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil." Cast out that spirit which one who was jealous of Christ introduced into the heavenly courts. **The trouble in heaven came because Lucifer, the angel of brightness, was not given the supremacy over Christ.** (Letter 146, 1901.5)

But Lucifer, the most glorious angel next to Christ, thought himself equal with God and made the effort, because of his beauty and glory, that he should be next to God, and then he could work out God's plans. **Thus Lucifer claimed the position next to the Creator. But Christ was the only begotten Son of God.** Lucifer made war in heaven and **would not take the position God assigned him**, therefore he fell from his high estate and has been in the world, a warring element against God's plans, and has had great power to allure and deceive souls to ruin them. There have been two parties in the world, the true and the false. (Letter 189 1909.29)

Angels were expelled from heaven because they would not work in harmony with God. **They fell from their high estate because they wanted to be exalted.** They had come to exalt themselves, and they forgot that their beauty of person and of character came from the Lord Jesus. **This fact the [fallen] angels would obscure, that Christ was the only begotten Son of God, and they came to consider that they were not to consult Christ.** (This Day with God 128.2)

My Brother Cottrell, I have a message for you that you are in the uttermost danger. Your position is a false one that cannot be sustained. In our early connection with this work, we went through all this experience of men claiming infallibility. We had for years to meet this and were always carried back to the experience of the first departure from truth in the history of the fall of Lucifer from heaven. He occupied a special, exalted position in the heavenly courts. **He must have no one higher than himself. He must be next to God in efficiency. But Christ was above him, and he claimed he must be above Christ.**

Christ was the only begotten Son of God, united with God.
(Letter 157 1910.1)

This work of opposition to the law of God had its beginning in the courts of heaven, with Lucifer, the covering cherub. Satan determined to be first in the councils of heaven, and equal with God. He began his work of rebellion with the angels under his command, seeking to diffuse among them the spirit of discontent. And he worked in so deceptive a way that many of the angels were won to his allegiance before his purposes were fully known. **Even the loyal angels could not fully discern his character, nor see to what his work was leading.** When Satan had succeeded in winning many angels to his side, he took his cause to God, representing that it was the desire of the angels that he occupy the position that Christ held. (Selected Messages Volume 1 222.2)

Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels. For a time he concealed his real purpose under an appearance of reverence for God. **He insinuated doubts concerning the laws that governed heavenly beings, intimating that angels needed no such restraint, for their own wisdom was a sufficient guide. All their thoughts were holy; it was no more possible for them than for God Himself to err.** **The exaltation of the Son of God as equal with the Father was represented as an injustice to Lucifer.** If this prince of angels could but attain to his true, exalted position, great good would accrue to the entire host of heaven, for it was his object to secure freedom for all. Subtle deceptions through the wiles of Lucifer were fast obtaining in the heavenly courts. (From Eternity Past 11.2)

The true position of the Son of God had been the same from the beginning. Many of the angels were, however, blinded by Lucifer's deceptions. **He so artfully instilled into their minds his own distrust and discontent that his agency was not discerned.** Lucifer had presented the purposes of God in a false light to excite dissent and dissatisfaction. While claiming for himself perfect loyalty to God, he urged that changes were necessary for the stability of the divine government. While secretly fomenting discord and rebellion, he caused it to appear as his sole purpose to promote loyalty, and to preserve harmony and peace. (From Eternity Past 12.1)

Lucifer pointed to the long-suffering of God as an evidence of his own superiority, an indication that the King of the universe would yet accede to his terms. If the angels would stand firmly with him, he declared, they could yet gain all that they desired. He persistently defended his own course, **and fully committed himself to the great controversy against his Maker.** Thus it was that Lucifer, "the light bearer," the sharer of God's glory, the attendant of His throne, by transgression became Satan, "the adversary" of God and holy beings and the destroyer of those whom Heaven had committed to his guidance and guardianship. (Patriarchs and Prophets 39.2)

Rejecting with disdain the arguments and entreaties of the loyal angels, he denounced them as deluded slaves. The preference shown to Christ he declared an act of injustice both to himself and to all the heavenly host, and announced that he would no longer submit to this invasion of his rights and theirs. **He would never again acknowledge the supremacy of Christ.** He had determined to claim the honor which should have been given him, and take command of all who would become his followers;

and he promised those who would enter his ranks a new and better government, under which all would enjoy freedom. Great numbers of the angels signified their purpose to accept him as their leader. Flattered by the favor with which his advances were received, **he hoped to win all the angels to his side, to become equal with God Himself, and to be obeyed by the entire host of heaven.** (Patriarchs and Prophets 40.1)

Still the loyal angels urged him and his sympathizers to submit to God; and they set before them the inevitable result should they refuse....They warned all to close their ears against Lucifer's deceptive reasoning, and **urged him and his followers to seek the presence of God without delay and confess the error of questioning His wisdom and authority.** (Patriarchs and Prophets 40.2)

Many were disposed to heed this counsel, to repent of their disaffection, and seek to be again received into favor with the Father and His Son. But Lucifer had another deception ready. The mighty revolter now declared that the angels who had united with him had gone too far to return; that he was acquainted with the divine law, and knew that God would not forgive. He declared that all who should submit to the authority of Heaven would be stripped of their honor, degraded from their position. **For himself, he was determined never again to acknowledge the authority of Christ.** The only course remaining for him and his followers, he said, was to assert their liberty, and gain by force the rights which had not been willingly accorded them. (Patriarchs and Prophets 40.3)

The heavenly councils admonished Lucifer to change his course. **The Son of God warned and entreated him not to venture thus**

to dishonor his Maker, and bring ruin upon himself. But instead of yielding, Satan represented to those who loved him, that he had been wrongly judged, that his dignity was not respected, and that his liberty was to be abridged. (Spirit of Prophecy Volume 4, page 317.2)

That Christ should regard him as needing to be corrected, and should presume to take the position of a superior, aroused in him a spirit of resistance, and he charged the Son of God with a design to humble him before the angels. By misrepresentation of the words of Christ, by prevarication and direct falsehood, Satan secured the sympathy of the angels under his control, and they united with him in revolt against Heaven's authority. (Spirit of Prophecy Volume 4, page 318.1)

To the last, he refused to acknowledge his own course to be deserving of censure. When the consequence of his disaffection became apparent, and it was decreed that with all his sympathizers he must be forever banished from the abode of bliss, **the arch-deceiver threw the blame wholly upon Christ. With one accord, Satan and his hosts declared that had they not been reprov'd, the rebellion would never have occurred, thus making Christ responsible for their course.** Thus stubborn and defiant in their disloyalty, seeking vainly to overthrow the government of God, yet blasphemously claiming to be themselves the innocent victims of oppressive power, the arch-rebel and all his sympathizers were at last banished from Heaven. (Spirit of Prophecy Volume 4, page 318.2)

While there was no open outbreak, division of feeling imperceptibly grew up among the angels. **There were some who looked with favor upon Lucifer's insinuations against**

the government of God. Although they had heretofore been in perfect harmony with the order which God had established, they were now discontented and unhappy because they could not penetrate His unsearchable counsels; they were dissatisfied with His purpose in exalting Christ. These stood ready to second Lucifer's demand for equal authority with the Son of God. **But angels who were loyal and true maintained the wisdom and justice of the divine decree and endeavored to reconcile this disaffected being to the will of God. Christ was the Son of God; He had been one with Him before the angels were called into existence. He had ever stood at the right hand of the Father;** His supremacy, so full of blessing to all who came under its benignant control, had not heretofore been questioned. **The harmony of heaven had never been interrupted; wherefore should there now be discord?** (Patriarchs and Prophets 38.3)

We want your faith to grasp the living promise. We want your faith to walk out so that it will be demonstrated to believers and unbelievers that your life is hid with Christ in God. Shall it be so? Will you grieve the Saviour that left the royal courts? What did He do it for? **Well, Lucifer, he was striving; he had glory in the heavenly courts, but he was striving for Christ's place next to God.** Next he wanted to be God, but he could not obtain that. Christ was the only begotten Son of God, and Lucifer, that glorious angel, got up a warfare over the matter, until he had to be thrust down to the earth. He knows what I am saying today. He knows whenever there is a company assembled together as you are here. He knows when we are making efforts in every way possible to reach out to win the minds of the people. He has his agencies appointed so that after this meeting

will be over, circumstances will arise and the enemy will try to gain the victory. (Manuscript 86 1910 paragraphs 29 and 30)

The enemy is frequently working your mind. He has endeavored to implant in your mind the same desires that he cherished when in the heavenly courts he occupied the position of covering cherub. **Christ is the express image of His Father's person, and the angels could see in the Son a perfect representation of God.** Lucifer coveted the honor and glory given to Christ. He became so self-exalted that he supposed that he could do anything he desired to do because of his high position as covering cherub, and **he tried to obtain for himself the position given to Christ.** But Lucifer fell. He was cast out of heaven; and now he works on human minds, tempting them to follow in his footsteps. He strives to fill minds with feelings of self-exaltation and to lead them to dishonor God by turning from their allegiance to the truth and inventing many things not after God's order. (Letter 55 1903, paragraph 15)

The records of some are similar to that of the exalted angel who was given a position next to Jesus Christ in the heavenly courts. Lucifer was enshrouded with glory as the covering cherub. Yet this angel whom God had created, and entrusted with power, became desirous of being as God. He gained the sympathy of some of his associates **by suggesting thoughts of criticism regarding the government of God.** This evil seed was scattered in a most seducing manner; and after it had sprung up and taken root in the minds of many, he gathered the ideas that he himself had first implanted in the minds of others, and brought them before the highest order of angels as the thoughts of other minds against the government of God. Thus, by ingenious methods of his own devising, Lucifer introduced rebellion in

heaven. God desired that a change take place, **and that the work of Satan be brought out in its genuine aspect. But the exalted angel standing next to Christ was opposed to the Son of God.** The underworking was so subtle that it could not be made to appear before the heavenly host as the thing that it really was; and so there was war in heaven, and Satan was expelled with all who would not stand on the side of loyalty to God's government. ... (SDA Bible Commentary Volume 4, 1143 paragraphs 1 and 2)

This condition of things **had existed a long period of time** before Satan was unmasked and the evil ones expelled. (Letter 162, 1906)

There was contention among the angels. Lucifer and his sympathizers were striving to reform the government of God. **They were discontented and unhappy because they could not look into His unsearchable wisdom and ascertain His purposes in exalting His Son, and endowing Him with such unlimited power and command. They rebelled against the authority of the Son.** (Story of Redemption 15.1)

Angels that were loyal and true sought to reconcile this mighty, rebellious angel to the will of his Creator. **They justified the act of God in conferring honor upon Christ, and with forcible reasoning sought to convince Lucifer that no less honor was his now than before the Father had proclaimed the honor which He had conferred upon His Son. They clearly set forth that Christ was the Son of God, existing with Him before the angels were created; and that He had ever stood at the right hand of God,** and His mild, loving authority had not heretofore been questioned; and that He had given no

commands but what it was joy for the heavenly host to execute. They urged that Christ's receiving special honor from the Father, in the presence of the angels, did not detract from the honor that Lucifer had heretofore received. The angels wept. They anxiously sought to move him to renounce his wicked design and yield submission to their Creator; for all had heretofore been peace and harmony, and what could occasion this dissenting, rebellious voice? (Story of Redemption 15.2)

Pride in his own glory nourished the desire for supremacy. **The high honors conferred upon Lucifer were not appreciated as the gift of God and called forth no gratitude to the Creator.** He gloried in his brightness and exaltation, and aspired to be equal with God. He was beloved and revered by the heavenly host. Angels delighted to execute his commands, and he was clothed with wisdom and glory above them all. Yet the Son of God was the acknowledged Sovereign of heaven, one in power and authority with the Father. In all the counsels of God, Christ was a participant, while Lucifer was not permitted thus to enter into the divine purposes. "Why," questioned this mighty angel, "should Christ have the supremacy? Why is He thus honored above Lucifer?" (Great Controversy 495.1)

We need to humble our hearts before God. We need to seek for that humility of mind which forbids selfishness, pride, envy, and jealousy. It was jealousy that brought sin into our world. **Lucifer, the angel next to Christ in the heavenly courts, gave way to feelings of jealousy.** He aspired to the throne of God. He was determined to rule independent of God. He sought for prerogatives which cannot be given to any created being. This led him to revolt against God. Of this we read, "There was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon;

and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven." [Revelation 12:7,8.] (Manuscript 78, 1901 paragraph 2)

Christians are engaged in a warfare. The church militant is not the church triumphant. In his onward march toward heaven, the follower of Christ must fight at every step. Our adversary is the one who once stood in the heavenly courts as the first of the covering cherubs. The ceaseless beams of glory enshrouding the eternal God once rested upon him continually. **But, not content with his position, though honored above the heavenly host, he began to covet the glory with which the Father had invested the Son.** Lucifer desired to be first in heaven. Thus he introduced sin into the universe. Why sin was permitted, no man can explain. A satisfactory reason for the existence of sin cannot be given. Nor can any reason be given for jealousy, evil surmising, covetousness, and idolatry. No man can reason out such things. (Manuscript 57, 1902 paragraph 4)

Two great powers are now on the field of battle. Satan, who at one time stood next to Christ in the courts of heaven, has become the adversary of man. **Before the fall of Lucifer, he aspired for the supremacy that had been given to Christ, who was one with the Father in the government of heaven.** There was war in heaven, and Satan and all the rebellious angels he had deceived were overcome. Those who had opposed **the will of God in appointing Christ as the chief ruler** were cast out of the heavenly courts, and since that time they have been warring against the Most High. (Letter 24, 1910 paragraph 4)

During the Pacific Union Conference held at Mountain View last January, we met with stern opposition to the leadings of the

Holy Spirit. I was given a message for you and for all who were so confident of the value of their judgment that they felt that they must never give up the sentiments they had once entertained, or retreat from a position that they had once taken. I was bidden to tell you **that for you to take the position that your ideas are never to be given up is to pattern after Lucifer.** The ideas that he wove into his experience in regard to entering into commercialism he refused to give up or exchange. **He refused to harmonize with Christ and was determined to carry out his plans.** (Letter 132, 1910 paragraph 3)

When God would not concede to Satan's claim to a place above His only begotten Son, Satan rebelled. There was war in heaven, and he was cast out. **He pressed his claim to be placed above Christ,** but the warfare resulted in his losing his position in the heavenly courts. Satan came to this world and determined to carry out here the idea that men could be equal with God. **He led men to doubt the Word of God and to distrust His goodness. Because God is a God of justice and terrible majesty, Satan caused them to look upon Him as severe and unforgiving. Thus he drew men to join him in rebellion against God, and the night of woe settled down upon the world.** (Letter 132, 1910 paragraphs 4 and 5)

Christ volunteered to come to our world and give to men the true light. **God gave His only begotten Son to the world to reveal the Father as supreme in heaven and in earth.** Christ came in the form of humanity, to meet and overcome the enemy and his devices. (Letter 132, 1910 paragraph 6)

At the birth of Jesus, Satan knew that One had come with a divine commission to dispute his dominion. He trembled at the

angel's message attesting the authority of the newborn King. **Satan well knew the position that Christ had held in heaven as the Beloved of the Father**. That the Son of God should come to this earth as a man filled him with amazement and with apprehension. He could not fathom the mystery of this great sacrifice. **His selfish soul could not understand such love for the deceived race**. The glory and peace of heaven, and the joy of communion with God, were but dimly comprehended by men; but they were well known to Lucifer, the covering cherub. Since he had lost heaven, he was determined to find revenge by causing others to share his fall. This he would do by causing them to undervalue heavenly things, and to set the heart upon things of earth. (Desire of Ages 115.2)

Not until the death of Christ was the character of Satan clearly revealed to the angels or to the unfallen worlds. The archapostate had so clothed himself with deception that even holy beings had not understood his principles. They had not clearly seen the nature of his rebellion. (Desire of Ages 758.3)

It was a being of wonderful power and glory that had set himself against God. Of Lucifer the Lord says, "Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty." Ezekiel 28:12. **Lucifer had been the covering cherub. He had stood in the light of God's presence. He had been the highest of all created beings, and had been foremost in revealing God's purposes to the universe**. After he had sinned, his power to deceive was the more deceptive, and the unveiling of his character was the more difficult, because of the exalted position he had held with the Father. (Desire of Ages 758.4)

God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. **Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan's government.** The Lord's principles are not of this order. His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love; and the presentation of these principles is the means to be used. **God's government is moral, and truth and love are to be the prevailing power.** (Desire of Ages 759.1)

Evil originated with Lucifer, who rebelled against the government of God. Before his fall he was a covering cherub, distinguished by his excellence. **God made him good and beautiful, as near as possible like Himself.** (Review and Herald, September 24, 1901)

Satan, the chief of the fallen angels, once had an exalted position in heaven. He was next in honor to Christ. **The knowledge which he, as well as the angels who fell with him, had of the character of God, of His goodness, His mercy, wisdom, and excellent glory, made their guilt unpardonable.** There was no possible hope for the redemption of those who had witnessed and enjoyed the inexpressible glory of heaven, and had seen the terrible majesty of God, and, in presence of all this glory, had rebelled against Him. There were no new and wonderful exhibitions of God's exalted power that could impress them so deeply as those they had already experienced. If they could rebel in the very presence of glory inexpressible, they could not be placed in a more favorable condition to be proved. **There was no reserve force of power, nor were there any greater heights and depths of infinite glory to overpower their jealous doubts and rebellious murmuring.** (Redemption; or the Temptation of

Christ in The Wilderness, 18, 19). (SDA Bible Commentary Volume 4, page 1163.1-3)

The casting down of Satan as an accuser of the brethren in heaven was accomplished by the great work of Christ in giving up His life. Notwithstanding Satan's persistent opposition, the plan of redemption was being carried out. **Man was esteemed of sufficient value for Christ to sacrifice His life for him.** Satan, knowing that the empire he had usurped would in the end be wrested from him, determined to spare no pains to destroy as many as possible of the creatures whom God had created in His image. **He hated man because Christ had manifested for him such forgiving love and pity, and he now prepared to practice upon him every species of deception by which he might be lost;** he pursued his course with more energy because of his own hopeless condition (The Spirit of Prophecy Volume 3, pages 194 and 195)

The strife for the highest place was the outworking of that same spirit which was the beginning of the great controversy in the worlds above, and which had brought Christ from heaven to die. There rose up before Him (Christ) a vision of Lucifer, the "son of the morning," in glory surpassing all the angels that surround the throne, and **united in closest ties to the Son of God.** Lucifer had said, "I will be like the Most High" (Isaiah 14:12,14); and the desire for self-exaltation had brought strife into the heavenly courts, and had banished a multitude of the hosts of God. **Had Lucifer really desired to be like the Most High, he would never have deserted his appointed place in heaven; for the spirit of the Most High is manifested in unselfish ministry.** Lucifer desired God's power, but not His character. He sought for himself the highest place, and every

being who is actuated by his spirit will do the same. Thus alienation, discord, and strife will be inevitable. Dominion becomes the prize of the strongest. **The kingdom of Satan is a kingdom of force;** every individual regards every other as an obstacle in the way of his own advancement, or a steppingstone on which he himself may climb to a higher place. (Desire of Ages 435.2)

It was Satan's desire for the supremacy that caused discord among the angels. **The mighty Lucifer, "son of the morning," claimed the right to honor and authority above the Son of God; and this not being accorded him, he determined to rebel against the government of Heaven.** He therefore appealed to the angelic host, complaining of God's injustice, and declaring himself deeply wronged. His false representations won to his side one-third of all the heavenly angels; and so strong was their delusion that they would not be corrected; they clung to Lucifer, and were expelled from Heaven with him. (Signs of the Times October 25, 1883, paragraph 25)

He (Christ) remembered the persistence and malice of Satan, who had boldly contended with the angels in Heaven that his sentence was unjust, maintaining that there was no self-denial with God, and that Satan, in struggling to carry out his purposes and have his own way, was only imitating the example of God. If God followed his own will perfectly and continually, why should not the first sons created in his image do so? By this argument Satan deceived many of the holy angels. **He complained continually of God's severity, just as children sometimes complain of their parents' severity in restraining them from carrying out plans destructive to the family government.** Rather than submit to the will of God he turned

from the light of reason, and set himself in opposition to the divine plans. (Spirit of Prophecy Volume 3, page 77.1)

Satan is the prince of demons. The evil angels over whom he rules do his bidding. Through them he multiplies his agencies throughout the world. **He instigates all the evil that exists in our world.** (SDA Bible Commentary, volume 6, page 1119)

It was the marvel of all the universe that Christ should humble Himself to save fallen man. That He who had passed from star to star, from world to world, superintending all, by His providence supplying the needs of every order of being in His vast creation—that He should consent to leave His glory and take upon Himself human nature, was a mystery which the sinless intelligences of other worlds desired to understand. **When Christ came to our world in the form of humanity, all were intensely interested in following Him as He traversed, step by step, the bloodstained path from the manger to Calvary.** Heaven marked the insult and mockery that He received, and knew that it was at Satan's instigation. They marked the work of counteragencies going forward; **Satan constantly pressing darkness, sorrow, and suffering upon the race, and Christ counteracting it.** They watched the battle between light and darkness as it waxed stronger. And as Christ in His expiring agony upon the cross cried out, "It is finished" (John 19:30), **a shout of triumph rang through every world and through heaven itself.** The great contest that had been so long in progress in this world was now decided, and Christ was conqueror. **His death had answered the question whether the Father and the Son had sufficient love for man to exercise self-denial and a spirit of sacrifice. Satan had revealed his true character as a liar and a murderer.** It was seen that the very

same spirit with which he had ruled the children of men who were under his power, he would have manifested if permitted to control the intelligences of heaven. **With one voice the loyal universe united in extolling the divine administration.** (Patriarchs and Prophets 69.3)

By his own course of action Satan has forged a chain by which he will be bound. The inhabitants of the heavenly universe will bear witness to God's justice in his destruction. Heaven itself has seen what heaven would be, if he were allowed to remain in it. **All the unfallen beings are now united in regarding God's law as changeless.** They support the government of Him, who, to redeem the transgressor, spared not His own Son. His law has been proved faultless. His government is forever secure. **The Father, the Son, and Lucifer have been revealed in their true relation to one another.** God has given unmistakable evidence of His justice and His love. (Signs of the Times, August 27, 1902, paragraph 15)

But the time has now come when the rebellion is to be finally defeated and the history and character of Satan disclosed. In his last great effort to dethrone Christ, destroy His people, and take possession of the City of God, the archdeceiver has been fully unmasked. Those who have united with him see the total failure of his cause. Christ's followers and the loyal angels behold the full extent of his machinations against the government of God. **He is the object of universal abhorrence.** (Great Controversy 670.1)

Satan sees that his voluntary rebellion has unfitted him for heaven.... His accusations against the mercy and justice of God are now silenced. The reproach which he has endeavored to cast

upon Jehovah rests wholly upon himself. And now Satan bows down, and confesses the justice of his sentence....

Every question of truth and error in the longstanding controversy has now been made plain.... (Great Controversy 670.2)

*Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum,
full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.*

*Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every
precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz,
and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper,
the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold:
the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee
in the day that thou wast created.*

*Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have
set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God;
thou hast walked up and down in the midst
of the stones of fire.*

*Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou
wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.
By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled
the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will
cast thee as profane out of the
mountain of God: and I will destroy thee,
O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.*

Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty,

*thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will
cast thee to the ground,
I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.*

*Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of
thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore
will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall
devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon
the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.*

*All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee:
thou shalt be a terror,
and never shalt thou be any more.*

(Ezekiel 28:12-19)

The Beginning of the Great Controversy: Lucifer and Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God

Christ is the express image of His Father's person, and the angels could see in the Son a perfect representation of God. Lucifer coveted the honor and glory given to Christ. He became so self-exalted that he supposed that he could do anything he desired to do because of his high position as covering cherub, and **he tried to obtain for himself the position given to Christ.** (Letter 55, 1903 paragraph 15)

By his own course of action Satan has forged a chain by which he will be bound. The inhabitants of the heavenly universe will bear witness to God's justice in his destruction. Heaven itself has seen what heaven would be, if he were allowed to remain in it. **All the unfallen beings are now united in regarding God's law as changeless.** They support the government of Him, who, to redeem the transgressor, spared not His own Son. His law has been proved faultless. His government is forever secure. **The Father, the Son, and Lucifer have been revealed in their true relation to one another.** God has given unmistakable evidence of His justice and His love. (Signs of the Times, August 27, 1902, paragraph 15)